



# **COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**

*Department for the Aging*

Jay W. DeBoer, J.D., Commissioner

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*COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA*  
*Department for the Aging*  
Jay W. DeBoer, J.D., Commissioner

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** AAA Directors

**FROM:** Bill Peterson

**DATE:** November 30, 2004

**SUBJECT:** **Virginia Will Host a White House Conference on Aging  
Pre-Session in April of 2005**

VDA is working with the College of William & Mary and AARP to plan a pre-session to the 2005 White House Conference on Aging (WHCoA) on Thursday, April 14, 2005. The session will follow the WHCoA rules for a sanctioned event and will be a "solutions session." The session will be held at the college and will include both panel discussions and opportunities for feedback from participants. The session will be open to the public, will be free of charge, and will include a focus on intergenerational solutions. More details will be available as we move closer to the date.

Note that the dates for the WHCoA are October 23-26, 2005. For more details on the conference go to [www.whcoa.gov](http://www.whcoa.gov). A tentative topics agenda for the conference is now available and Virginia's "solutions session" will attempt to address several of these topics.

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Jay W. DeBoer, J.D., Commissioner

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Executive Directors  
Area Agencies on Aging

**FROM:** Ellen Nau, Human Services Program Coordinator

**DATE:** November 30, 2004

**SUBJECT:** National Family Caregiver Support Program

**Virginia Caregiver Grant Program**

Gale Davis, Senior Connections – The Capital Area Agency on Aging, has forwarded the following information:

The Department of Social Services Caregiver Grant Program provides annual grants of up to \$500 to caregivers who provide unreimbursed care to a needy relative. Grants are awarded for care provided for at least six months of the previous calendar year. Checks are issued on or before December 31 of the year in which applications are received, **pending funding by the General Assembly**. By Code, there is no appeal process. Decisions by the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) regarding this grant are final.

**General Requirements:**

1. Both the caregiver and the relative receiving care must be related by blood, marriage, or adoption.
2. Both the caregiver and the relative receiving care must reside in the Commonwealth of Virginia.
3. A licensed physician must certify that the criteria for assistance are met.
4. Applications must contain an original signature from the caregiver and the physician who provides certification. Faxes and/or electronic signatures cannot be accepted.

Requirements of caregiver – the caregiver must:

1. Provide unreimbursed (unpaid) care for a relative who has a mental or physical impairment;
2. Have an annual Virginia adjusted gross income of not more than \$50,000;
3. Provide care to the relative for at least six months of the previous calendar year.

Note: relevant documentation may be requested to verify eligibility.

Requirements of relative:

1. The relative must require assistance with two or more activities of daily living (ADLs) which include: eating, dressing, bathing, toileting, transferring, bowel incontinence and bladder incontinence.
2. Require assistance for at least six months of the calendar year
3. Not be receiving Medicaid reimbursed long-term care services, except on a periodic or temporary basis.

Filing deadlines: Pursuant to the Code of Virginia, VDSS will only accept applications between February 1 and May 1 of each year. Applications postmarked prior to February 1 or after May 1 will be disqualified.

***Applications, information, and assistance will be available after January 1, 2005, at local departments of social services, local departments of health, local community services boards, on SeniorNavigator.com, and at local area agencies on aging (AAA's). Applications can also be acquired by calling 1-877-648-2817 after January 1, 2005. This is a 24-hour toll-free number.***

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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Executive Directors  
Area Agencies on Aging

**FROM:** Tim M. Catherman  
Deputy Commissioner, Support Services

**DATE:** November 30, 2004

**SUBJECT:** Bay Aging Receives HUD Grant

Congratulations to Bay Aging and their partnership with Peninsula Agency on Aging to provide services to the elderly in James City County. Bay Aging received a grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development and Peninsula AA will provide the meals. Attached is the newspaper article.

# Low-income housing wins grant

*James City County's first affordable elderly apartment complex gets a \$5.7 million grant.*

BY DAPHNE SASHIN  
dsashin@dailypress.com | 223-5684

**JAMES CITY** — A nonprofit developer has won a \$5.77 million federal housing grant to build the first subsidized apartment complex in James City County for very low-income elderly people.

Bay Aging of Urbanna will use \$4.7 million to construct 67 one-bedroom apartments at the corner of Ironbound and Carriage roads. The rest of the money will subsidize tenants' rents for the first five years. The Department of Housing and Urban Development will make additional allocations for rent subsidies in future years.

To apply for an apartment, a person must be at least 62 years old and make no more than about \$19,550 per year, which is 50 percent of the county's median income. A couple can make about \$22,350 combined. Those figures are

adjusted each year. Residents pay 30 percent of their income — minus medical costs — for rent and utilities, and the federal government makes up the difference.

This will not be an assisted living facility, though residents will have access to some services and their apartments will be designed with some adaptive features such as walk-in showers.

"They could probably stay in this apartment longer than they would by just staying in a regular apartment," said Rick Hanson, the administrator for the county's office of housing and community development. "They don't have all the worries that they have trying to maintain a home."

The three-story building is a major component of the Ironbound Square redevelopment plan — a project to improve housing in the neighborhood — but it will be open to elderly people from all over the

greater Williamsburg area, said Kathy Vesley-Massey, senior vice president at Bay Aging.

The senior population in James City County has grown 88 percent in the past decade. At the same time, the county has one of the highest median gross rents in the region. That leaves a growing number of low-income elderly renters paying more than they can afford or living in poor housing conditions.

"In Williamsburg, James City County and parts of York County, the needs are just huge," Vesley-Massey said. "Without even looking, we're already getting inquiries and there's interest, and of course we haven't even started to market or seek out folks."

The project is a partnership between Bay Aging, the Peninsula Agency on Aging and James City County. The Peninsula Agency on Aging will arrange meals and in-home care for tenants who need it and hold educational sessions about available services.

James City County paid for preliminary engineering plans and waived the water connection, building permit and inspection fees, Hanson said. The county also used part of a \$1 million state block grant to demolish the three homes on the site. One was vacant; the county relocated the families living in the other two.

As part of the county's overall redevelopment plan, it is working to renovate or replace homes for 50 families and create a new mixed-income neighborhood in the area. The county expects to finish the improvements and will then set out to finish building the new houses, Hanson said.

The land must still be rezoned.

The senior housing could be ready for tenants as early as fall 2006 and no later than the following year, Vesley-Massey said. Just before construction, the developer will send pre-applications to anyone who has expressed interest.

DAILY Press - October 27, 2004

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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Executive Directors  
Area Agencies on Aging

**FROM:** Ellen Nau, Human Services Program Coordinator

**DATE:** November 30, 2004

**SUBJECT:** Holiday Season Activities – Area Agencies on Aging

**PSA 8D Loudoun County Area Agency on Aging**

Two senior centers are holding Christmas Eve programs on December 24 when county facilities are otherwise closed and staff would otherwise have the day off. Staff of the Adult Day Center will host one free night of care so that families can do shopping. AAA staff is volunteering as a group at the County's Holiday Store for people qualified by income to be eligible for this program (activity is led by Dept. of Social Services). Contact: Anne Edwards, Executive Director of Loudoun County Area Agency on Aging (703) 777-0257

**PSA 8C Fairfax County Area Agency on Aging**

Kim Karlinchak reports that Fairfax AAA usually has a poinsettia fundraiser, selling poinsettias to county employees to raise money to help PSA 8 C clients throughout the year. Unfortunately, the agency's grower lost his green house to a tornado this past summer so.... no pretty poinsettias this year. Fairfax AAA hopes to have the project next year!

**PSA 10 Jefferson Area Board on Aging**

JABA's "Be a Santa to a Senior" will positively impact the community by providing holiday cheer and gift giving to those senior adults who are least likely to receive a gift during the holiday season. Home Instead Senior Care, a companion care agency in

Charlottesville, developed a partnership committee consisting of community leaders and non-profit organizations such as JABA, United Way, Social Services and Salvation Army to work with two local merchants to place a Christmas tree inside their stores. The first name of a senior and their gift preference will be written on a tree ornament and placed on the Christmas tree. Merchant customers will pull an ornament from the tree and purchase a gift. The gift and corresponding ornament will remain in the store and be collected by volunteers who will assist with wrapping and delivery of the gift before Christmas. Contact: Joyce Gentry, JABA I & A Specialist at 434-817-5222.



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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** AAA Directors

**FROM:** Bill Peterson

**DATE:** November 30, 2004

**SUBJECT:** **The New *Rx Partnership* Initiative Will Help Some Older Virginians**

The Virginia Health Care Foundation has announced the implementation of a new initiative called the *Rx Partnership* that will provide free prescription drugs to low-income uninsured Virginians. The Rx Partnership encourages drug companies to provide drugs at no cost to Virginia's free clinics and community health centers. These clinics and centers, in turn, will prescribe them for free to eligible persons. I have attached some additional information.

Be aware that only certain clinics and health centers are eligible to participate in the program and that the Rx Partnership is still working to certify eligible clinics around the Commonwealth. A map is included in the attachment that shows the location of all potentially eligible clinics. Also, at this time only GlxoSmithKline is participating but it is expected that other drug companies will join the program in the near future.

Finally, eligibility is an issue. Free clinics and centers appear to set their own eligibility criteria. The Rx Partnership, however, has additional eligibility criteria: income must be no greater than 200% of poverty and persons may not have any health insurance that would help them with the purchase of prescription medications.

Attachment



## **Rx Partnership Case Statement**

Hundreds of thousands of Virginians cannot afford to pay for the medications they need.

More than 1 million Virginians have no health insurance. While paying for prescription medications is a burden for many, it is impossible for some. In fact, more than one in four uninsured Virginians (27%) go without needed medications because they cannot afford to pay for their prescriptions. The result: conditions that could have been controlled go out of control. Longer term, the consequences include lost work, costly hospitalizations and shortened lifespans.

Free medications are available, but the costs involved in getting them to patients are too high.

Free Clinics and community health centers are the lifeline for uninsured Virginians, their source for essential health care. Many of these facilities work to get their patients free medications through pharmaceutical manufacturers' programs for patients in need. Yet, because the number of those in need is so high and the process involved in making individual requests for medications so lengthy, far too many eligible patients are not enrolled.

A single change – the Rx Partnership -- will allow thousands more Virginians to receive these free medications.

Filling thousands of individual medication requests is an administrative nightmare, both for facilities that provide care for the poor and for the pharmaceutical companies. The Rx Partnership will change the focus, connecting the pharmacies at Free Clinics and community health centers directly to the pharmaceutical companies. No individual requests. No statewide warehouse. No governmental infrastructure. Just a direct link from the facility that provides the care to the pharmaceutical company.

The Rx Partnership exists for a single purpose – to help more patients in need receive the medications they need.

As a non-profit, public/private partnership, the Rx Partnership removes the barriers by serving as a broker between the pharmaceutical companies' patient assistance programs and the pharmacies run by community-based clinics.

The Rx Partnership is a win-win for all involved – patients, pharmaceutical manufacturers, community health providers and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

RxP will work with both the community based health providers and the pharmaceutical manufacturers to make the delivery of medication to those in need vastly more efficient and cost effective.

For Free Clinics and Community Health Centers, RxP will:

- Determine which community based health entities qualify to participate in RxP.
- Provide criteria to identify and verify eligible patients.
- Instruct and train them on receiving, dispensing, tracking and re-ordering the available free medications.
- Conduct site reviews and audits, and ensure that all participating health providers are fully in compliance.

For Pharmaceutical Manufactures, RxP will:

- Solicit their participation.
- Implement and oversee the process of arranging for bulk distribution directly to the participating community health pharmacies.
- Ensure that only patients who are truly in need receive the free medications by requiring that all participating facilities document individual eligibility (up to 200% of federal poverty level).
- Require and review participating pharmacies' records on medications ordered and distributed.
- Streamline and reduce the administrative costs of their Patient Assistance Programs in Virginia.
- Reinforce their reputation as companies concerned about the welfare of those in need.

For patients, RxP will:

- Serve as an invisible "advocate," helping more low income Virginians receive the medications they need to get healthy and stay healthy.

For the Commonwealth of Virginia, RxP will:

- Work to improve the health and well being of the people of Virginia.
- Reduce the cost of providing emergency and hospital care to patients whose conditions worsened because they could not afford medications.

RxP will begin with the most controlled environments – the licensed pharmacies at Free Clinics and Community Health Centers.

Currently, 18 of Virginia's 49 Free Clinics, and four of the Commonwealth's 26 Community Health Centers operate their own pharmacies. While RxP will begin by limiting participation to these pharmacies, it eventually will expand to allow participation by pharmacies affiliated with, but not run by, community health providers. The goal is to allow as many eligible patients as possible to benefit from the largesse of the pharmaceutical manufacturers' patient assistance programs.

A statewide public-private partnership, the Rx Partnership is comprised of concerned and active partners working to improve the health of Virginians.

Funding for the Organizational Start-up Phase has come from:

Medical Society of Virginia Foundation	Pfizer
Carilion Foundation	Sentara Healthcare
Logisticare	Virginia Health Care Foundation
Lilly	Virginia Primary Care Association
Virginia Association of Free Clinics	Wyeth
Virginia Pharmacists Association	

In addition, the Virginia General Assembly has demonstrated its desire to make prescription medications more available for Virginia's low-income, uninsured residents by providing part of the operational funding needed for years one and two of the Rx Partnership.

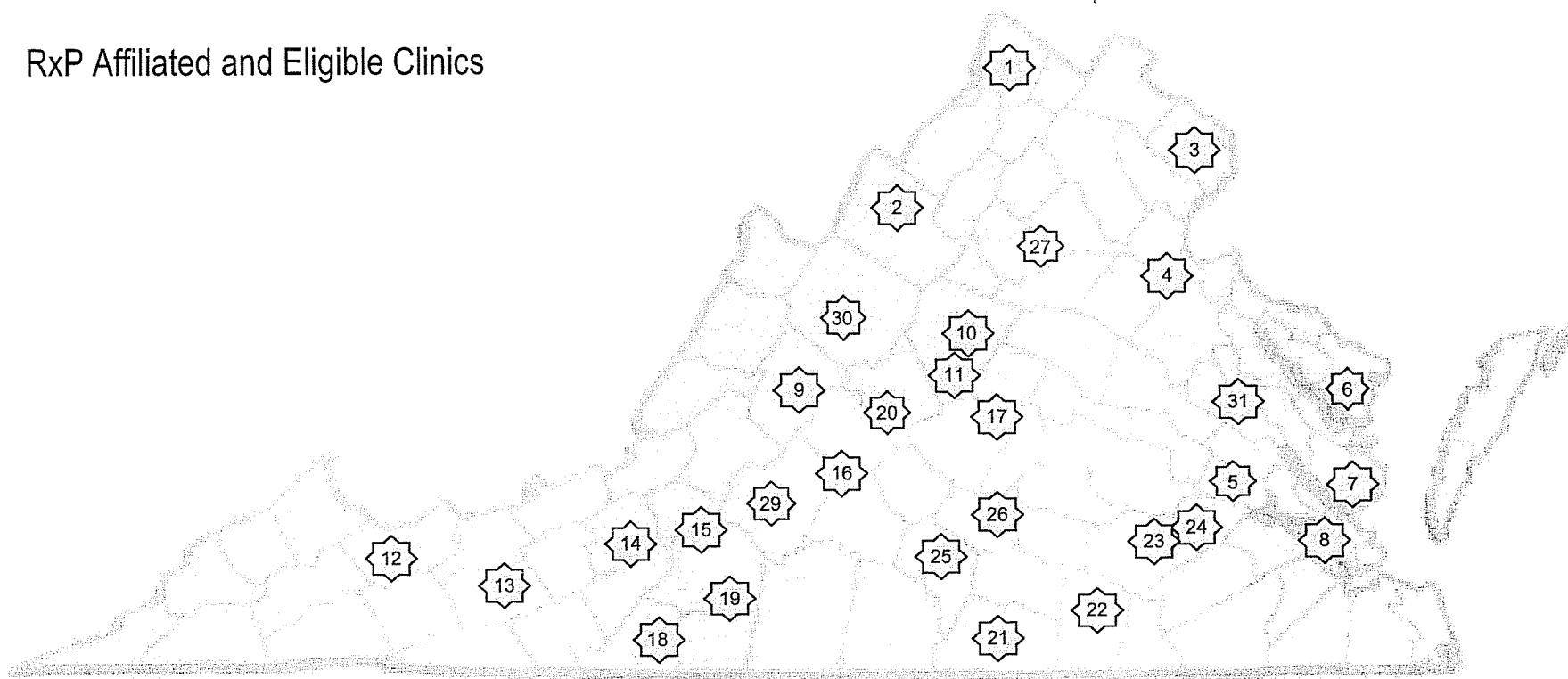
GlaxoSmithKline, one of the world's leading pharmaceutical manufacturers, has taken a leadership position by signing on as the first company to offer its product line through RxP.

Also aiding in the development of the Rx Partnership are these key public and private sector members of the steering committee for RxP:

Virginia Board of Pharmacy	Joint Commission on Health Care
Campbell Hoffman Foundation	VCU Medical Center
REACH	Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association



## RxP Affiliated and Eligible Clinics



**3** Arlington Free Clinic-Arlington \*  
**30** Augusta Regional Clinic-Fishersville \*  
**29** Bedford Christian Free Clinic-Bedford \*  
**15** Bradley Free Clinic-Roanoke  
**20** Blue Ridge Medical Center-Arrington \*  
**12** Brock Hughes Free Clinic-Wytheville \*  
**17** Central Virginia Health Services-New Canton  
**23** Central Virginia Health Services-Petersburg \*  
**5** Charles City Regional Health Services-Charles City  
**25** Charlotte Primary Care-Charlotte Courthouse  
**10** Charlottesville Free Clinic-Charlottesville

**16** Free Clinic of Central Virginia-Lynchburg  
**27** Free Clinic of Culpeper-Culpeper \*  
**19** Free Clinic of Franklin County-Rocky Mount  
**14** Free Clinic of the New River Valley-Christiansburg  
**1** Free Medical Clinic of N. Shenandoah Valley-Winchester \*  
**7** Gloucester-Mathews Free Clinic-Hayes  
**2** Harrisonburg-Rockingham Free Clinic-Harrisonburg\*  
**21** HealthCare on the Square-Boydton \*  
**26** Health Center for Women & Families-Farmville  
**31** King William-Dawn Community Doctors-Aylett  
**8** Lackey Free Medicine Clinic-Yorktown \*

**4** Lloyd F. Moss Family Medicine Clinic-Fredericksburg  
**6** Northern Neck Free Clinic-Kilmarnock \*  
**24** Prince George Health Care Alliance-Prince George  
**12** Reddy Tri-County Health Clinic-Richlands \*  
**9** Rockbridge Area Free Clinic-Lexington  
**11** Southern Albermarle Family Practice-Esmont  
**22** Southside Community Health Center-Alberta  
**18** Tri-Area Health Center-Laurel Fork  
**28** Westmoreland Medical Center-Montross

\* Eligible clinic (includes current applicants)